



COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE



Making a Mark COPS Partners with Major Cities Chiefs

Letter from Director Carl R. Peed
Office of Community Oriented Policing Services

February 2-4, 2003

The threat of terrorism presents many new challenges for American cities, both large and small. The COPS Office has been pleased to help the law enforcement agencies that serve our cities to meet these challenges and protect their communities with funding for additional police officers and technology as well as training and technical assistance.

As you know, a primary purpose of the COPS Office is the advancement of community policing. For a number of years the successful application of community policing principles has resulted in real reductions in conventional crime. These same principles can likewise provide an effective response to the threat of terrorism. By constructively engaging their communities, policing agencies have made their citizens active stakeholders in preserving public safety. As a result of empowering their citizens, law enforcement has significantly enhanced its crime-fighting capacity by increasing the number of people alert to criminal activity and willing to report it.

Another important weapon in the war on terror is technology. COPS grants help law enforcement agencies acquire, implement, and deploy technologies including computer aided dispatch, mobile data terminals, and innovative data sharing projects like CLEAR in Chicago and Safe City in St. Louis. The ability to share information quickly can make policing agencies better able to serve their communities and enable them to fight crime more efficiently.

While meeting the new challenge of securing our homeland, COPS continues to help law enforcement address conventional crime. COPS national network of Regional Community Policing Institutes (RCPIs) provides community policing training and technical assistance to America's law enforcement agencies and the communities they serve. The RCPI in Phoenix, Arizona, for example, delivers Violence in the Workplace Seminars designed to increase employers' awareness of workplace violence problems, help them respond to those problems, and stimulate ideas for preventing them.

The Phoenix RCPI delivered 18 of those seminars to public and private sector employers that reached over 700 individuals between July 2001 and June 2002 alone. The training received excellent participant evaluations from a wide range of managers. Preventing violence in the workplace not only saves lives, it saves law enforcement response time and keeps officers out of harm's way.

As your communities prepare to face challenges both new and old, COPS looks forward to helping you use community policing strategies and COPS resources to meet those challenges. COPS funding has already helped more than 12,800 state, local and tribal law enforcement agencies make their communities safer. COPS looks forward to continuing this important partnership.

Sincerely,

Carl R. Peed
Director
Office of Community Oriented Policing Services

Snapshots

COPS Facts

- ★ Invested a total of \$9.6 billion nationwide since 1994
- ★ Awarded over \$4 million to Major Cities Chiefs in 2002 through COPS grant Creating a Culture of Integrity
- ★ Awarded more than \$1 billion in technology grants
- ★ Awarded \$665 million under the COPS in Schools grant program since 1998
- ★ Awarded over \$223 million to combat the spread of methamphetamine across the country
- ★ Awarded over \$198 million to tribal law enforcement agencies nationwide

Tell Us About It!

COPS values feedback from law enforcement practitioners, and we want to hear from you! Please send us an email letting us know about your successful community policing efforts to reduce crime. You can send us an email at TellCOPS@usdoj.gov – we look forward to hearing from you.

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San Diego COPS in Schools

Community policing can only succeed when law enforcement professionals can connect with the communities they serve. In order to keep a community safe, law enforcement must build an effective working relationship with its youth. The COPS Office supports efforts to do that through its COPS in Schools program, which helps hire and train law enforcement professionals to work in and around America's schools.

The San Diego Unified School District permanently assigned full-time Campus Police Officers (CPOs) to each of its traditional high schools in 1996. Providing a higher level of service to the schools required an overall increase in patrol force, and several COPS grants - including COPS in Schools-helped make this possible.

The San Diego City Schools Police Department partnered with many local stakeholders including the San Diego Unified School District and more than 150 community organizations to develop different programs

devoted to student safety, security, and wellness. These programs involve youth in the fight against gang activity and violent crime, vandalism and property crimes, and trespassing on school property. In the process, students learned to accept law enforcement professionals as partners, role models, and mentors. In addition to providing an important police presence in schools, CPOs teach students basic safety, an introduction to criminal law, and discuss the possibility of law enforcement as a career.

CPOs also proved to be a vital community resource. The level of crime on school campuses dropped significantly. Relations between parents, staff, and students noticeably improved. Collaborative partnerships between police and community members continue to grow. The Campus Police Officer program is just one more example of how dedicated law enforcement professionals have used COPS funds to improve the quality of life in the communities they serve.

Crime Fighting Technologies: The Bits and Bytes that Bind

The COPS Office has awarded more than one billion dollars to help state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies acquire, implement, and deploy crime-fighting technologies since 1995. Below are some of the ways COPS grants are helping American law enforcement secure our homeland.

COPS Making Officer Redeployment Effective (MORE) grants often help American law enforcement agencies improve their communications capabilities. MORE grants fund projects ranging from mobile data terminals (MDTs) for patrol vehicles to more comprehensive and sophisticated systems like fully-integrated computer-aided dispatch (CAD) and records management systems (RMS).

Chicago's CLEAR (Citizen Law Enforcement Analysis and Reporting) system is changing how law enforcement agencies can harness the power of technology to increase their analysis capabilities, share information with other agencies, and prevent crime. Chicago used a COPS Technology grant to help develop this innovative information sharing technology initiative. CLEAR delivers information on more than four million arrestees with more than 30 data points, including mug shots and criminal history records, at the simple click of a mouse. Over 700 million data elements will

eventually be available for use in crime and problem analysis. The timely problem identification that this data sharing system will provide will allow law enforcement officers to more quickly address crime and disorder problems as well as engage in crime prevention activities.

St. Louis developed its Safe City project with help from a COPS technology grant. The Safe City project gives citizens access to its crime mapping software through the Safe City website. This website graphically illustrates correlations between a wide variety of crimes and activities that might otherwise have seemed unrelated. An additional component of the system is available only to law enforcement agencies in the region, and it tracks the movements of parolees and probationers. This new functionality brings together partners ranging from information technology providers to the FBI.

As more agencies embrace community policing strategies, COPS is pleased to support an ever-widening range of projects to help them work together more effectively. The challenges and responsibilities that American law enforcement professionals face continue to grow and evolve, making crime-fighting technologies more important than ever in the fight to keep America safe.

Community Policing and the Use of Force



Law enforcement professionals can face situations that require the use of force. An entire agency can be judged by the decision that one of its members makes during critical situations. A workshop at a recent COPS technical assistance conference, *Police Integrity in a Changing Environment*, focused on how community policing principles can be used to help law enforcement professionals prepare for and meet such challenges.

The workshop discussion highlighted that a good first step in preparing for use-of-force incidents is to examine an organization's policies. All policies, procedures, and definitions regarding the use of force by law enforcement professionals must reflect the most recent applicable legal standards and precedents. Policies based on out-of-date material can be a liability.

Participants discussed ways that law enforcement agencies can design training programs around these policies. These training programs should focus equally on the appropriate use of force and the decision-making process that leads to it. The decision to use force is one of the most important decisions a law enforcement professional ever makes, and

can impact an entire agency. New recruits need guidance in the decision-making processes that can lead up to a situation that requires the use of force.

Additionally, participants suggested that one way to build an organization with a reputation for judicious and appropriate use of force is to train new recruits in confrontation-avoidance techniques. Communications skills can enable officers and deputies to defuse potentially volatile situations before they can escalate.

The COPS Office funds a wide variety of projects designed to ensure that American law enforcement agencies recruit, train, and deploy professionals who demonstrate high levels of personal and organizational integrity. COPS recently funded seven law enforcement agencies under the Creating a Culture of Integrity initiative to develop and strengthen policies to manage use of force, and to develop training that will help line officers and command staff understand and implement the policy. These projects will result in best practices that can be shared with and replicated by other law enforcement agencies.

Documenting Police Innovations

The COPS Office has invested \$9.6 billion since 1994 to add community policing officers to the nation's streets, enhance crime fighting technology, support crime prevention initiatives, and advance community policing. The COPS Office has awarded grants to more than 12,800 of our nation's 18,000 law enforcement agencies. In an effort to document and highlight accomplishments COPS Office funding helped achieve, the COPS Office is working with the Institute for Law and Justice to identify agencies for a new project entitled, "Reports from the Field: Community Policing Innovations."

If your agency has received COPS Office funding for any of the programs listed below and would like to be included in this project, please contact: Deborah Spence, Institute for Law and Justice, by phone: (703) 684-5300; or e-mail: deborah@ilj.org

- J Hiring Grants (AHEAD, FAST, PHASE1, and UHP)
- J Making Officer Redeployment Effective (MORE)
- J Cops in Schools (CIS)
- J School-Based Partnerships
- J Tribal Resources Grants

COPS Resources

The COPS Office works with innovative criminal justice and law enforcement professionals to provide a wide range of community policing resources. From involving victims in the community policing process to addressing problems like bullying in schools, COPS publications can offer insights and experiences from others in the field. These resources are available on line in our Resource Room at www.cops.usdoj.gov.

COPS Community Policing Resources Include:

- Mutual Respect in Policing (Video and Curriculum)
- Applying Community Policing Principles Post 9/11 Resource CD
- Tackling Crime and Other Public Safety Problems: Case Studies in Problem-Solving
- The Ethics Toolkit: Enhancing Law Enforcement Ethics in a Community Policing Environment
- SchoolCOP software and accompanying *Guide to Using SchoolCOP to Address Student Discipline Problems*
- Problem-Oriented Guides for Police Series, with topics ranging from acquaintance rape to rave parties

ng Resource Room

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Save the Date!

COPS 2nd Annual National Community Policing Conference: *Working Together for Safer Communities* will be held **June 16 through 18, 2003** at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel in **Washington, D.C.** COPS is currently accepting **workshop proposals** - please email Presentation@usdoj.gov for more information.

Keep checking COPS Online at www.cops.usdoj.gov for updated conference information!

COPS
The 2nd Annual
National Community
Policing Conference

